

As the Eggers patent fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the inventions defined by independent claims 13, 28 and 33, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 13, 16, 19, 20, 28, 30, 33-36, 38 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 should be withdrawn.

Turning to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on the Eggers/Imran combination, the Imran patent fails to remedy the above identified deficiencies in the Eggers patent with respect to independent claims 13, 28 and 33. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that claims 17, 32 and 40-45 are patentable over the combined teachings of the Eggers and Imran patents and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be withdrawn.

Finally, with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on the Eggers/Desai combination, the Imran patent fails to remedy the above identified deficiencies in the Eggers patent with respect to independent claims 13, 28 and 33. For example, the Imran patent does not teach or suggest that the input device 54 can be used to selectively disable one or more of the electrodes on the catheter 70 to selectively form lesions of various size. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that claims 41-46 are patentable over the combined teachings of the Eggers and Desai patents and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be withdrawn.

IV. CLOSING REMARKS

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the application patentably distinguish over the cited and applied references and are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

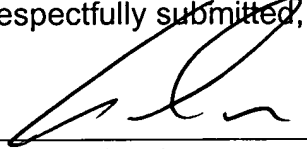
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's undersigned representative at (310) 563-1458 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0638. Should such fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

5/26/00
Date

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Respectfully submitted,



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